

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, January 21, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, January 21, 1845.

My dear Mr Blair, I have every day, since I was exhausted writing to Major Lewis, and giving him authority in my name to call upon Mr. Governeer for copies of my private letters to Mr. Munroe, with Mr. Munroes to which they were answers, [been] endeavouring to acquire strength to reply to your letters, but the spirit was willing but the flesh too weak, until last night brought me yours of the 13th instant, which I read with the most gratefull feelings. I rejoice at the course our friend Col. Benton is about to take on the Texan question. 1 It will give the subject success, and will, which I have greatly at heart, restore him to that high confidence of the democracy which he once so deserved[ly] possessed. Say to the Col. for me, that the course intimated is the only proper course, and one which the authorities of Texas will promptly embrace, and he will be hailed over the whole Union as the flag bearer of Texas into the Union. Be it so.

1 Benton voted for the joint resolution for the annexation of Texas.

Why my dear friend have you attempted any apology for publishing any parts of my letters that you may Judge proper. You know I have such confidence in your friendship and Judgtment, that I freely intrust my character and fame to your keeping knowing that it is safe hands.

I would to god that any thing I could do, or say, would plaice you in the confidence of every democrat in our Union as you stand in mine. But let me assure you that the intrigues

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to destroy you and the Globe are coming to light, will recoil upon their authors and fall harmless at you[r] feet, and rivet the confidence of the democracy firmly to you—more so than ever. I will certainly shew your letter, with the whiggs confidential Copy inclosed to Col. Polk. In him you will find a good friend, and when he reaches you he will have a frank and free conversation with you, with which you will be pleased. Col. Polk understands Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Rhett well. He thinks, I am sure with me that Mr. Calhouns talents are needed in England, to combat with my Lord Aberdeen on the subject of abolition, and the right of search. Here is the Theator for Mr. C. high talents, and there, if Mr. C. will accept, they will be employed. Rest assured Col. Polk will act with energy, cary out the great principles which he has exposed to the people, and by an executive council of his own choice fresh from the people. He will have no caball about him, his heads of Departments must be a Unit. This is my opinion of the man , and I think you will, when you know the men be pleased with his selection.

The men who projected the Whigg plans, as pourtrayed in the Whigg confidential letter, a copy of which you have inclosed me, are adepts in 0391 367 intrigue, the moving hand, I think I have a right to know. In due time this confidential Whigg plan ought to be given to the public. It will politically destroy all concerned in it, and the course of Col. Benton which you have indicated prostrates all his enemies in Missouri, and every place else and must restore him again to that high and deserved confidence in which the democracy held him — I trust it may.

Mr. Governeer, notwithstanding the kind and friendly letter he wrote to Major Lewis with regard to myself, which the major inclosed me, and which I have, has shewn the cloven foot, which he may have reason, as the representative of Mr. munroe, to repent, before all the confidential letters and acts of Mr. Munroe is unfolded. Mr. G. has told Major Lewis, that my letters alluded to in his publication, has been shewn to no one. How then does Mr. Kenedy, of Baltimore allude to them so boldly if he has not seen them. But when seen, as replies to Mr. Munroes letter their dates etc. (for I have no recollection of ever writing Mr. Munroe but the one letter on the subject of the Treaty of 1819, and the boundery and that

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is the one you have seen of June 1820, which must destroy Mr. Adams and his diary, for if Mr. Munroe had got my confidential opinion thro' Mr. Adams in February 1819, why did Mr. Munroe want my opinion in 1820. The truth is, I never heard of the treaty of 1819, until long after it had been negotiated and ratified by the senate. I hope my letter to you of the 4th instant covering one to my friend B. F. Butler and inclosing him one to Mr. Governeur, 2 has reached you in safety and through that channel you are in receipt of Mr. Munroes letters and my answers, which will lay open the whole ground, and I think will do no good to Mr. Adams, or Mr. Munroes Representative. I leave all this matter to you, my dear friend, for whilst I am now writing I am gasping for breath

2 See pp. 357, 358, ante.

May god prosper you and defend you from all your secrete or open enemies and may you live and triumph over them all, is the prayer of your sincere friend, and may be the last I may be able to commit to paper. My whole Houshold salute you and yours most kindly.